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The Sun

715 Bridge to be closed 7-8 months



The 715 Bridge over the Hillsboro Canal is closed to traffic and Florida Department of Transportation officials say the bridge will be closed for 7-8 months. The bridge will be completely replaced during this time. North-South traffic on SR 715 is being detoured at Hooker Highway and NW Avenue L over to SR 15 and SR 80 during the construction period.

Belle Glade cracks down on tenants who owe back rent

Management of the airport is taken back over by city

By Brenda Bunting
Editor

Tenants at the Belle Glade Municipal Airport have been served notice that the sub-lease agreement with Glades Airport Management, Inc. has been terminated and the city has taken back managing the facility.

Last week, City Attorney Charles Schoch sent certified letters to five tenants containing new lease agreements. They must sign the lease and pay rent by March 31 or they will be evicted effective April 1.

The sub-lessees include Mills Flying Service, Air Crop Care, Inc., Homer Hand and South Florida Crop Care.

Glades Airport Management, Inc. operated by Don Godfrey, leased the airport from the city on April 16, 1996 for \$2,500 a month. Mr. Godfrey then sub-leased the property to the five tenants.

City Finance Director Dave Wood said Mr. Godfrey paid rent the first year, but not for the next

three years and owes a balance of \$54,000. The sub-lessees say Mr. Godfrey never executed lease agreements with them.

Mr. Wood says the sub-tenants are not being asked to pay what Godfrey owes, even though several of them, according to Mr. Godfrey, never paid him.

The State of Florida owns the 85.9 acre site and sub-leases the property to the Department of Transportation. The city sub-leases from D.O.T.

The city commission will decide at Monday night's commission meeting how much the tenants will pay, but it is tentatively set at 15 cents a square foot for the space they wish to occupy, plus they must pay for maintenance and mowing.

The city could make \$30,000 a year by leasing the property and Mr. Wood says an added benefit is that the city would not have to pay for maintenance and mowing, which in the past has cost the city \$30,000 a year.

Scrutinizing the city's finances was one of the first things Belle Glade City Manager W. Shelton Smith says he began doing after taking over the job in February of last year.

One of the items that he says jumped out at him right from the beginning was the money owed by the lessee at the Belle Glade Municipal Airport.

"I began cracking down as soon as I took over," says Smith. "It's not our desire to get rid of the tenants, just that they pay what they owe," he said.

Mr. Smith said the city also sent a Notice of Default to Charlotte and John White who lease the Municipal County Club building, known as the Drawbridge Cafe.

When the letter was sent on February 23, the Whites owed back rent of \$5,729, plus interest.

Mrs. White paid the city \$1,000 last Monday afternoon and says she plans to give the city another \$1,000 before the end of the

See City Finances/Pg. 3

Clewiston man charged with two counts kidnapping, sexual assault

By Tracy Whirls
Associate Editor

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office arrested a Clewiston man after victims in two separate incidents a month apart reported being picked up at gunpoint in West Palm Beach, driven to isolated areas of Belle Glade, sexually assaulted, robbed, and then left stranded.

Daniel J. "Huberto" Santoyo, 45, of Clewiston, was charged with two counts of armed kidnapping, armed sexual battery and armed robbery/possession of a firearm during commission of a felony.

The suspect was apprehended Wednesday, March 8 after PBCSO Detective Guillermo Moreno spotted a black Suzuki Samurai 2-door, matching a description provided by the victims, traveling westbound on SR 80 at 6 p.m.

The driver matched a police artist sketch of the suspect, and authorities reportedly recovered a wallet believed to belong to one of the victims from the vehicle.

The charges stemmed from two complaints filed by victims with the sheriff's office.

According to a press release from Sgt. David Carhart, the first incident occurred Feb. 4 when a 32-year-old woman was allegedly abducted at gunpoint from El Torrito Club, located at Melaleuca and Congress Avenue in Lake Worth then driven to Wedgeworth Road in Belle Glade where she was sexually assaulted. The suspect reportedly then took her wallet and drove away.

The victim was able to walk to a nearby residence and phone authorities. She was then taken to Glades General Hospital where she was treated and released.



Huberto Santoyo

The second incident allegedly occurred on March 6, when the victim, a 21-year-old woman was standing in a small strip plaza at Forest Hill Blvd., Green Acres, Palm Beach County, where she observed a black jeep type vehicle pull up at the convenience store. The driver called her over to his vehicle and when she got close, the suspect displayed a handgun and told her to get into the vehicle. The suspect then allegedly drove her to a cane field in Belle Glade where he sexually assaulted her, took her wallet and drove away, leaving her in the field.

The sheriff's office is looking for a second suspect believed to have been involved in the Feb. 4 incident. He is described as a white or Hispanic male, 22 years old, 5' 10", 160 lbs., and was wearing a long-sleeved pullover with writing on it and goes by the name "Johnnie." Anyone with information concerning the incident is asked to call Detective Charles Rodriguez at 996-1666, Detective Robert Senzina at 996-1648 or Sgt. David Carhart at the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office at 996-1687.

Pahokee rejects extended stays at campground

By Tracy Whirls

The Pahokee City Commission voted down a proposal to allow campers to extend their stay at the Pahokee marina campground for more than eight months after the proposal met with opposition from citizens and residents at the campground itself.

Under the proposal, ten percent of campsites at the marina would have been reserved for campers

who wanted to extend their stay over eight months in a 12-month calendar year.

Under the existing ordinance, which remains in effect, campers are limited to a six-month stay.

Commissioner Keith Rabb, who had spearheaded the endeavor, had argued that by allowing campers to extend their stay at the

See Campground/Pg. 3

Sex offender moves to area from Idaho

A convicted sexual offender has moved to Belle Glade from Idaho and is living at 1716 N.E. Avenue H, Belle Glade.

Bryan Dwayne Knight moved to the area about a week ago from Idaho. Idaho police were contacted to determine what offense Knight was convicted of, but since he has moved from the state, police said they no longer have him in their database.

Knight is a white male, 28 years old. He is 6'1" tall, has brown hair and weighs 185 pounds.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Sexual Offender/Predator Unit wants residents to know when a convicted sex



Bryan Dwayne Knight

offender moves to a new area and asks local newspapers to publish the information.



Poll workers in Belle Glade didn't have a lot to do on Tuesday, March 8 since turnout was very low. Shown, from left are Josephine Ulm, Blunzell S. Bridges, Augustin, Felecia Hines, Shirley Moorer and Lula Sprinkle.

Stimspots continue, Pg. 2

Lake Level

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Sunspots/From Page 1

Harvest Queen Pageant

The Harvest Queen Pageant will be held April 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center.

Applications are available at Atlantic Pacific Insurance, 204 Northwest Avenue L.

Participants must be between the ages of 16 and 21 to enter. The pageant is sponsored by the Belle Glade Lions Club and PBCC Glades.

Tickets are \$10 and will be available at First Community Bank in Belle Glade after March 21.

For more information, call Becky White at 996-5800.

Black Gold Tennis Tournament

The Black Gold Tennis Tournament will be held April 1-8. There is no entry fee and the tournament format includes a consolation round, so all competitors will play at least two matches.

If enough entries are received, Tennis Chair Ken Buchanan says a compass format will be used in which each time competitors win or lose, they gravitate toward players of comparable ability levels who have had the same results in the previous round. A player or team can lose the first three matches and still be guaranteed a spot in one of eight finals.

Sign up now for men and women's singles, doubles and mixed doubles by contacting Mr. Buchanan at 996-6107.

Chamber Golf Tourny

The Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce second annual golf tournament will be held at the Belle Glade Municipal Golf Course Saturday, April 29. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Shotgun start at 9 a.m. First Place: \$80 gift certificate, Second place, \$60 gift certificate, Third place \$40 gift certificate. Entry fee is \$40, \$25 to sponsor a cart, \$100 to sponsor a tee, \$250 package includes foursome and tee sponsorship. Lunch will be provided. All checks should be made to the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce, 540 S. Main Street, Belle Glade 33430. For more information or to register by phone, call Janise Goforth at (661) 996-2745.

Symposium honoring Women of the Glades

In observance of Women's History Month, Palm Beach Community College Belle Glade will host a symposium honoring Local Women of Accomplishment, Monday, March 27 at the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center.

From 5-6:30 p.m. local women will present why they chose their careers and what was significant in reaching their positions in agriculture, arts, banking and finance, child care, community service, health, law, law enforcement, medicine, politics and social work. Refreshments will be served during a reception from 6:30-7 p.m. following by a book signing, reading and painting exhibited by Ann Spann Tyler, renowned painter, who shares her first publication *Torry Island Boy of the Everglades*, in a limited edition from 7-8 p.m.

Open House for South Bay City Hall

You are invited to attend the Open House at the South Bay City Hall on March 22 at 10 a.m. The City Hall has been completely renovated since the fire. Mayor Clarence Anthony and City Clerk Virginia Walker are proud to show it off. Please

join them for the ceremony and the grand tour.

Sunset Watch

Pahokee will be sponsoring another Sunset Watch on March 25. You'll enjoy listening to a professional square dance caller and watching the dancers as they go through their paces. For more information, call Barbara Branch, chair at 924-5633 or Shirley Jarriel at 924-6332. Vendors are welcome. There is no charge for this event.

Applications for Black Gold events

Numerous activities are planned for the 2000 Black Gold Jubilee.

Anyone needing an application for the tennis tournament, volleyball, arts and crafts booths, Little Mr. and Miss Black Gold, the Photography Contest, parade, 5K Walk/Run, Children's Fishing contest, or any other event can pick one up at the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, call the Chamber at 996-2745 or Jubilee Chair Carl Seibert at 993-3343.

NCAA Game Breaker 2000 Tournament

The Glades Festival of Afro Arts presents its first Game Breaker 2000 Tournament.

The committee is seeking the best Sony Playstation gamers to participate. The tournament will take place on Saturday, March 18. Registration fee is \$20 and the deadline to enter the competition is March 11.

For information or to register, contact Albert Harper III at 924-5282 or Lawanda Everett at 924-3126.

Booth space available for Black Gold Jubilee

Vendor booth applications are now being accepted for the 2000 Black Gold Jubilee to be held April 15. Applications may be obtained from the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce, or by calling 993-3343.

The deadline for applications is March 31, 2000.

Class of 1981 event

The Class of 1981 from Glades Central will host "Pajamas Jam" on Saturday, March 18 at Club 21, 1533 N.W. Avenue L, Belle Glade. The event begins at 9 p.m. and admission is \$5.

The class will also be hosting

a meeting on Sunday, March 5 at Pioneer Park at 4 p.m. for class members and everyone is invited.

For more information, call 996-4313.

Before Care program at Boys & Girls Club

The Belle Glade Teen Club announces the start up of a Middle School Before Care program. Staff members will be available to provide a safe, positive place for children at the Teen Club located at Lake Shore Civic Center for students ages 11-14.

Care will be provided from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and the cost is \$10 per child, which includes a free trip to the Rapids.

For additional information, please contact Ken Funderburk at 992-5399.

Children's Day 2000 in the Glades

In conjunction with the "Week of the Young Child" April 9-15, there will be a Children's Day 2000 in the Glades on Friday, April 14 at Rardin Park in Belle Glade.

Special guest will be Ronald McDonald and a live concert performance by "Ms. Maggie." There will also be a bounce house and games for the children.

Church opening

Pastor Fred G. Gamble and Sister Patricia Gamble and the church family invite everyone to attend the dedication service for True Vine Church on March 19 at 4 p.m.

The church is located at 2100 10th Street and Carolina Ave, Cleveiston in Harlem.

For more information please call 863-983-7495.

West Tech adult evening registration

Registration for the fourth term adult evening classes at West Technical Education Center will run through the week of March 21. Registration hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday in the school office.

For further information, call 996-4930.

Founder's Day at Shiloh Missionary Baptist

The entire community is invited to fellowship on March 19 at 11 a.m. at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Pahokee with the Glades Ebonyque Ladies Club members during their Founder's Day.

The guest speaker will be Mrs.

Dorothy E. Harrelle. The theme is "A Call to Duty."

Several musical selections will be rendered by the church choir. The Founder's Day Program coordinator is Delores Maxey. The pastor of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church is Rev. Larry White.

Bingo every Tuesday

The Pahokee Elks Lodge, East Main Street, offers bingo every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. at the Lodge.

For more information call the Lodge.

Free and reduced meals for children

The Wee Care Child Development Center offers free or reduced lunches to children at their center located at 209 S.W. 10th Street, Belle Glade.

The program is offered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's "Child and Adult Care Food Program."

For more information contact the center.

Applications being accepted for PEPPi

Head Start

PEPPi Head Start, 200 Southwest 9th Street, Belle Glade, is now accepting applications for three and four year olds for the 1999-2000 school year.

There is no cost and children with disabilities are welcomed. For more information call 996-1718.

Alzheimer's Dementia Caregiver Support

Families who are dealing with a loved one with

Alzheimer's Dementia can find support from the Alzheimer's Dementia Caregiver Support Group. The meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Pahokee Civic Center.

For more information call Sandy Choate at 992-7283.

Community Awards

The Glades Community Development Corporation will be having Community Awards on Monday, March 20 at noon.

Anyone who would like to attend can RSVP to GDCD at 992-9500.

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Spring Event

Saturday, March 18 and Sunday, March 19, 2000
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm



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JUPITER
North County Transfer Station
14185 Military Trail

DELRAY BEACH
South County Transfer Station
1901 S.W. 4th Avenue

WEST PALM BEACH
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Collection Facility

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For more information, call the Solid Waste Authority at 887-2700 or 930-2727 (toll free). If you live within a city, village or town limits, please check with your public works department for additional drop-off locations.

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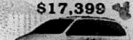
1998 Chevrolet Silverado Extended Cab
"Most Dependable, Longest-Lasting Trucks on the Road"
One owner, P. Windows & Locks, 17K Miles, Auto, A/C, Super Clean!
\$19,199



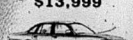
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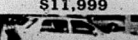
1997 Chrysler Town & Country LXI
7 Passenger, Leather, Loaded Too Good to Describe! A Steel Air!
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1997 Ford Crown Victoria Sedan
Leather, Loaded!
\$13,999



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\$11,999



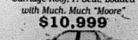
1995 Oldsmobile Ninety-Eight Regency
Sedan, One Owner, Leather, Cassette & CD, Seats. One of a Kind!
\$13,499



1994 Chevrolet Impala SS
"No Flincher"
Black Beauty, One Owner.
\$19,599



1996 Buick Century Custom Sedan
"Isn't it time for a real car?"
27000 Miles, One Owner, Carriage Roof, T. Seat, Loaded with Much, Much, Moore!
\$10,999



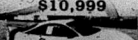
1996 Pontiac Grand Am SE Coupe
"Driving Excitement"
49K Miles, V6, Auto, A/C, P. Windows & Locks
\$8,599



1992 Oldsmobile Eighty-Eight Royale Sedan
"Start Something"
\$12,999



1997 Mitsubishi Eclipse RS
One Owner, Auto, A/C, Aluminum Wheels, Spoiler.
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OPINION PAGE

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The Sun

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You are not required to give your name. While we want you to speak out freely, the newspaper reserves the right to edit calls for clarity, brevity, relevance and fairness.

Civic Center closure

"Hi: In your article on the front page of Thursday, March 9 it says 'Belle Glade raises costs on numerous user fees' in the third column it says the Belle Glade Civic Center is currently closed for renovations.

There have been activities at the Belle Glade Civic Center all along. I don't believe that's correct.

Thank you."

Editor's note: Current clubs and organizations who are using the Belle Glade Civic Center are going to be permitted to use the facility until the end of March. According to the Belle Glade Recreation Center, the Civic Center is not being rented for other functions until the renovations are completed. All organizations now using the facility will have to stop after March 31. Bobbie Mathis with the Recreation Department said this is why voters cannot come to the center for the Primary Election.

Thank you for Speaking Out."

She's outta here

"I read in the Palm Beach Post in the opinion section, everything you hear that concerns taxpayer money goes to the city of Palm Beach. Well, Belle Glade is in that county. Who wants to drive 50 miles to sit in these new parks, roads, libraries etc. Belle Glade has bad streets and roads 715 and 441 are so rough it will in time make a wreck of the new cars? I know the sugar trucks don't help.

Just like the South Bay RV. That was a waste! I've watched and can't see how they make ends meet or even pay the help. Waste. For myself I will be out of here, with my

family in two months. It's just getting too high for a mere working person to live here. Everything has gone up except the pay."

Get cars off the street

"I would like to know why a church in Pahokee has their cars parked on the side of the road and when you're going up the street you cannot see anything and it almost caused an accident. They need to find somewhere to park. They're blocking the sidewalk. Thank you."

Occupational licenses

"I'm calling in reference to Pahokee. I would like to know why you have to pay \$300 for an occupational license. Some of them do and some of them don't. And that's not fair to the ones that are paying the occupational license and city license. Because you go up through some stores they don't have a license to serve, and somebody like us are paying the \$300 and they should be able to pay it. It's not fair and I would like an answer to that question."

Spoiled food?

"I would like to make a complaint about a restaurant that serves the people because they cook spoiled food and they have really bad rodents. Thanks."

Note: If you believe a restaurant is serving spoiled food, or has sanitation problems, you can call the Department of Business and Professional Regulations, Hotel and Restaurant Division, to register a complaint. The number is 1-800-532-3287.



UF team helping to create solar cells thinner than human hair

By Aaron Hoover

University of Florida News

University of Florida engineers are pioneering an inexpensive method for making a new breed of exceptionally thin and cheap solar cells expected to make solar power a more widespread source of electricity in the new millennium.

The cells, known as "thin-film solar cells," are 100 times thinner and potentially lighter than today's silicon cells. They also require less semiconductor materials, an attribute that opens the door for the cells to be made cheaply and in great quantity.

"The material cost is very minimal," said Sheng Li, a UF professor of electrical and computer engineering and part of a four-member UF faculty team at work on the process. This is a very promising technology for solar cells."

The UF research comes at a time when the market for solar cells is in a strong growth spurt. For the past several years, the industry has an annual growth rate of 15 to 20 percent, similar to that of the booming semiconductor and computer industries. Total sales reached the \$1 billion mark in 1998, according to industry publications.

Solar cells' advantage is that they produce "green" power without harmful emissions. Also, they can generate power for a house or small business on site, reducing electrical demand on power plants and electrical grids.

Traditional silicon cells, however, require relatively large amounts of semiconductor materials, making them expensive to manufacture and driving up their cost in the marketplace. They are also heavy and unwieldy, limiting their potential applications, Li said.

The UF researchers hope to get around these problems through the thin-film cells, which can be created with "pennies' worth" of materials on flexible surfaces such as plastic. Where traditional solar cells use wafers similar to computer chips, thin film cells use thin layers of semiconductor material. Thin-film cells, however, have a far more complex chemical structure and are more difficult to make than traditional cells, attributes that have limited their production

and commercialization to date.

Scientists and engineers at more than a dozen universities, government labs and corporations are exploring several different thin-film solar cell technologies as part of a major initiative sponsored by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, a government lab that seeks to develop renewable energy technologies and improve energy efficiency.

The UF team, part of the "Thin Film Partnership program," is focusing on a technology that uses a compound semiconductor called "copper indium diselenide," or "CIS."

The technology involves depositing an extremely thin layer of CIS on a specially prepared material such as glass, Li said. Two to three microns thick, the semiconductor layer is thinner than a human hair and 100 times thinner than conventional solar cells, he said.

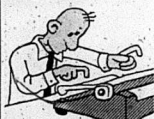
Researchers elsewhere have demonstrated CIS cells can convert as much as 18 percent of sunlight to electricity, about the efficiency of the most efficient traditional silicon cells, according to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. But there still are major challenges to overcome in manufacturing the cells.

"They have a more complicated structure and require more complicated processing," said Tim Anderson, chairman of the UF chemical engineering department and member of the CIS team. "Our role is to better understand the processing and transfer the technology to industry."

The UF team also is experimenting with ways to simplify the manufacturing process, Li said. Three years into the six-year project, the team has used a simpler, cheaper process to make CIS cells with efficiencies in the range of 8 to 10 percent, good progress toward the project's goal of 13 to 15 percent efficiency, Li said. He added that he expects CIS cells to be widely available on the market in less than 10 years.

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory is providing about \$1.6 million for the research. The other UF team members are Paul Holloway, a professor of materials science and engineering, and Oscar Crisalle, an associate professor of chemical engineering.

About letters



To voice your opinion about Glades issues, or to respond favorably or unfavorably to articles printed in the paper, we encourage you to write us a letter. Send to:

The Sun

417 N.W. 16th Street #6, Belle Glade, FL 33430

Editors note: The POLICE NEWS in this newspaper lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Arrested persons who later are found not guilty or have had the charges against them dropped are welcome to let us know. We will confirm the information and print it.

The Sun

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- ✓ To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- ✓ To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- ✓ To correct our errors, and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- ✓ To provide a right to reply to those about whom we write.
- ✓ To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.



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Yvonne Jones.....Office Manager/Graphics
Tracy Whirls.....Associate Editor
Margaret Stairs.....Sales Consultant

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Looking back...



This bank photo was taken almost 30 years ago in Belle Glade. Do you recognize any of the people in the photo?

Glades Ebonique Ladies Club elects officers

The Glades Ebonique Ladies Club elected officers at a recent club meeting.

The officers for the next two years are as follows: President, Mary Pringle; Vice President, Carolyn Brown; Secretary, Margaret Edwards; Treasurer, Gloria Atkin's; Chaplain, Eva

Harris; Parliamentarian, Ruby Johnson; and Historian, Alma Morman.

Many activities have been planned for the upcoming year. At the February club meeting, members decided on an outing in March and to have a social at the Cheesecake Factory in Boca

Raton.

The club purchased over fifty items (socks, hair combs, brushes and toiletry items) which were donated to patients at the Glades Nursing Health Care facility in Pahokee. These items were delivered after the February meeting.

Pahokee participates in the Great American Cleanup 2000

Once again it's time for the Great American Cleanup and Pahokee is gearing up for a great response. Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful is furnishing beautiful t-shirts to anyone who will come and help out. Workers began cleaning the streets and sidewalks on Monday and will continue through next week.

While we realize cleanup is an everyday thing and not just once a year, this major thrust will help to clean the areas that don't always get the attention they need. We are so pleased that GCI, Florida

Department of Transportation, the Eagle Academy and the Okeechobee Youth Conservation Group are willing to help us make our city beautiful," said Barbara Branch, Cleanup Chair.

Tire Amnesty Days are Saturday and Sunday, March 18 and 19. There is no charge to get rid of old tires from residential neighbor-

hoods. Bring any old tires to the corner of South Lake and East Main or call Mrs. Branch, 924-6633, Shirley Jarriel, 924-6332, or the City Manager, 924-5534 to arrange for

pick up.

Everyone is invited to help make Pahokee beautiful. Join us on Saturday, March 18 at 8 a.m. in front of the Chamber of Commerce, 115 East Main Street, to participate and receive your t-shirt.

If you are unable to come down on Saturday, check with Mrs. Branch at 924-5633 if you would like to help anytime through next week.

"If everyone would keep their own yard and neighborhood clean, this annual cleanup would be a piece of cake!" concluded Mrs. Branch.

Cosmetology to be offered at West Tech

The Academy of Cosmetology will be offered at West Technical Education Center during the 2000-2001 school year. This academy is an opportunity for high school students to train for a variety of careers in the field of cosmetology and salon services. Instruction is designed to qualify students to

take the Florida Cosmetology license examination. Emphasis is on manicures, pedicures, hair styling, cutting, wigs/hair extensions, and facials. Content includes human relation skills, employability skills, safe and efficient work practices, Florida cosmetology law and HIV-AIDS. Upon success-

ful completion, students will be prepared for employment as licensed hairdressers and cosmetologists, or to work in a variety of related fields, and will be awarded a college-ready diploma.

For more information, call West Technical Education Center at 996-4930.

Forty-nine people struck by lightning last year



Mike Lyons

On this day, however, Edwin Robinson never heard that clucking sound. As he walked under a poplar tree he was knocked face-down on the ground by a bolt of lightning. He later told friends that it felt "like somebody cracked a whip over my head."

For twenty minutes, Robinson lay unconscious under the tree. When he woke up he felt confused and very tired. He wanted to take a nap. When Edwin Robinson got up from his nap he was a changed man. For the first time in nine years, he could see again, he could hear again and he was growing hair again on his bald head.

It is an extraordinary tale. Here was a man who not only was struck by lightning and survived but actually benefited from it. Unfortunately, Edwin Robinson's story is one in a billion.

In most cases, victims of lightning are just lucky to be alive. And in Florida during 1999 we had too many lucky people. The National Weather Service reports 49 people were struck by lightning last year. Five of those victims were killed.

In the last 40 years, 34 people have been killed by lightning in our area alone, with dozens more victims around the state. 1994 was a particularly deadly year. The National Weather Service reports 128 people were struck by lightning in 1994, breaking the old record of 108 in 1991.

The average number of persons struck by lightning each year in the state is 40. On average, eight people are killed by lightning.

Usually lightning is a singular killer, striking one person at a time. Yet, in 1994 that was different, too. On June 16, 35 Florida National Guard troops were shocked by a single lightning flash at Camp Blanding. In September, eleven players and one coach of the Pahokee High School football team were hospitalized after being injured by a nearby flash.

Florida suffers more lightning injuries and deaths because Florida experiences more thunderstorms. The Sunshine State is the most lightning prone area in the United States. In an average year, Florida receives almost twice the number of lightning strikes as other areas of the nation.

Most people who are struck by lightning are hit before the rain arrives at their location or after the rain has ended.

The National Weather Service recommends the "30-30 Rule" for lightning safety.

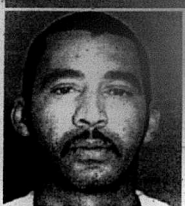
Part one-30 seconds: count the seconds between seeing the thunder and hearing the thunder. If the time is 30 seconds or less then the lightning is close enough to be a threat. Seek shelter immediately.

Part two-30 minutes: after seeing the lightning flash, wait 30 minutes before going back outside.

The next time the clouds turn dark, the thunder begins to rumble and the lightning shows up perhaps we should follow the example of Edwin Robinson's pet. Maybe we should all play chicken.

(Mike Lyons is the chief weather forecaster for WPBF-TV)

CRIME STOPPERS



Louis Cabero Ortiz

Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County, Inc. is asking citizens to help locate Louis Cabero Ortiz who is wanted for failure to appear on charges of burglary of a dwelling and dealing in stolen property. He is also wanted for violation of probation on charges of domestic battery. Ortiz is a white male, 5'7" tall, and weighs 160 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes and tattoos on his right arm. His date of birth is December 12, 1962. His last

known address was 4971 Fimlico Court, West Palm Beach. His Social Security number is unknown and his last occupation was as a painter. His warrant was active as of March 7, 2000.

If you know the whereabouts of Louis Cabero Ortiz, or anyone involved in a serious crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-458-8477. You can remain anonymous and still receive a cash reward if your tip leads to an arrest.

Arrest Blotters

Editor's note: The police news on this page lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Arrested persons who later are found not guilty or have had the charges against them dropped are welcome to let us know. We will confirm the information and print it.

BELLE GLADE

The Belle Glade Police Department handled 634 citations and gave 89 traffic citations the week of March 6-12.

Those arrested included:

March 6 - No arrests made.

March 7 - Patricia Coleman, 32, burglary of a residence, resisting arrest with violence and battery on a law enforcement officer; Juvenile, 16, retail theft; Tavares Martin, 25, contempt of court; Rodney King, 20, resisting an officer with violence.

March 8 - Joe McGhee Sr., 64, possession of narcotic paraphernalia; Willie Pierce, 47, warrants for forger and grand theft and charges of possession of cocaine.

March 9 - Anthony Billings, 38, retail theft and resisting arrest with violence; Corey Burroughs, 30, failure to appear.

March 10 - No arrests made.

March 11 - Michael Chesapeake Sr., 37, battery; Sonnie Vixana, 24, domestic battery; Juvenile, 17, retail theft; James Rolland, 54, dealing in stolen property and possession of narcotic paraphernalia; Francis West, 37, domestic assault; Robert Henderson, 38, gambling with dice; Juvenile, 16, warrant for aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

March 12 - Juvenile, 17, contempt of court on charges of battery, six counts of failure to appear on traffic citations and two contempt of court charges for obstruction by a disguised person and obstruction without violence; Raul Gamez, 28, driving under the influence; Manuel Flores, 31, leaving the scene of an accident with bodily injury; Westly Dorle, 25, retail theft; Maurice Pittman, 29, violation of probation.

SOUTH BAY

The South Bay Police Department made 15 arrests the week of March 5-11.

Those arrested included:

March 5 - Raymondo Vickers, 37, battery; John F. Davidson, 28, habitual offender for driving without a driver's license; Trisha R. Bolley, 23, possession of marijuana under 20 grams.

March 6 - Carlton Antonio Turner, 29, warrant for aggravated battery.

March 7 - Willie Britt, 25, warrant for violation of probation; Jason K. Teele, 25, possession of marijuana under 20 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia.

March 8 - Euphernia Dendard, 20, warrant for fraud for insufficient funds.

March 9 - No arrests made.

March 10 - Marvin Dixon, 43, resisting arrest without violence, possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia; Dontae L. Moore, 21, possession of marijuana under

20 grams; Phillip Guzman, 23, possession of marijuana under 20 grams.

March 11 - Calvin E. Johnson, 40, violation of the open container law; Willie Lee Nelson, 22, warrant for carrying a concealed firearm; Theresa King, 35, possession of cocaine and possession of marijuana under 20 grams; Nathaniel Jones, 30, possession of cocaine; Johnny E. Crawford, 47, possession of drug paraphernalia.

PAHOKEE

The Pahokee Police Department handled 187 calls, issued 17 traffic citations and made 7 arrests the week of March 6-12.

Those arrested included:

March 6 - James Atterberry, 60, aggravated battery.

March 7 - Juvenile, 16, possession of marijuana under 20 grams; Jose Sancedo, 18, possession of marijuana under 20 grams; Juvenile, 17, cruelty to animals.

March 8 - Sherrick McKelton, 23, two warrants.

March 9 - No arrests made.

March 10 - No arrests made.

March 11 - Isaac Smith, 30, burglary to a structure; Gilberto Navarro, 25, burglary and domestic assault.

March 12 - No arrests made.

PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's made 9 arrests the week of March 6-14.

Those arrested included:

March 8 - Curtis Lee Rodgers, 37, Jackson, Miss., warrant order of commitment child support; Michael Williams, 29, Pahokee, domestic battery; Sherrick McKelton, 23, Pahokee, warrant for false imprisonment, domestic battery, burglary of dwelling, aggravated stalking and obstruction without violence.

March 10 - Felix Matias, 22, Belle Glade, warrant for failure to appear driving while license suspended, violation of restriction, speeding and failure to use due care; Jason Lemarvin Johnson, 26, Pahokee, unlawful possession of a controlled substance.

March 12 - William Walker Jr., 23, Belle Glade, affray and resisting without violence; Keo Green, 24, Pahokee, affray, throwing a deadly missile and resisting without violence; Lisa Ernest - Willis, 34, Pahokee, simple battery domestic; Kendrick Domain Williams, 23, Pahokee, assault domestic, manufacture of a hoax device; Jerry Field, 39, Clewiston, felony driving while license suspended.

March 13 - No arrests.

March 14 - Mario D. Brooks, 20, Pahokee, carrying a concealed weapon.

1922

IN THE UNITED STATES — 1922 WAS THE YEAR THAT:

- Warren G. Harding was President
- The nation's population passed 100 Million
- The Dow Jones reached 100
- Average annual earnings averaged \$1,000

1922 was also the year First Community Bank was founded. Our first location was in Pahokee where we were known as the Bank of Pahokee. We've grown, but we haven't changed the way we do business. We're still a home-owned and home operated independent bank. We're still dedicated to providing friendly personal service to the families and businesses of Western Palm Beach County. It's been that way for 78 years.



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Cat Talk

from Gove Elementary



Winter Achievement Awards

The following students were recognized for their achievements during a recent awards program held March 10. **Kindergarten:** Nicholas Lesley, Martin Gallegos, Kara Roberts, Ana Sanchez, Jalal Kaki, Krysta Arroyo, Keyshya Rhett; **First grade:** Varley Vasallo, Karly Redd, Lionel Reyes, Lucia Solis, Krista Gutierrez, Jarmal Desire, Stephanie Quintana, Brittany Santos, Graham Johnson, Eric Esparza, Marile Quintana; **Second grade:** Bertha Rodriguez, Heriberto Rodriguez, Yaminah Loiz, Matthew Roberts, Mirsha Brown, Nabia James, Emily Pope, Yanetsi Acosta, German Calas, Cynthia Cardenas, Jaclyn Garza, Annette Silva; **Third grade:** Carmen Nunez, Daniel Fullwood, Danielle Edgecomb, Emily Spotts, Nuba Abraham, Kimberly Kittrell, Thomas Martinez, Jose Rodriguez, Lucia Almaguer, Wael Kaki, Kierra Wilson, Alejandro Albor, Patrick Billings, Lawrentia Shirley, Jarrett Swabby, Dairant-Beavers, Kathleen Johnson, Matthew Lowell, Amany Mashni, Lissetta Mora, Mercedes Powers, Vanessa Varela, Javier Almazan, Michelle Priest, Nicholas Alonso, Aleigh Miller, Vincent Harper, Miya Police; **Fourth grade:** Brandy Cooper, Jessica Bryant, Luis Matias, Laura Perez, Cristall Monroy, Von Smith, Alex Williams, Sergio Zabala, Wismick Lemene, Vionni Brown, Tiarra Wilson, Melvin Stewart, Jazmin Billings, Eddie Poole, Selomit Vargas, Christopher Dossaran, Richard Johnson, Mahir Murshed, Lethacha Myers, Jessica Hand, E.L. Pope, Alejandra Delgado, Ramon Pacheco, Joshua Huston, Kayla Collier, Cynthia Orsenigo, Jimmie Arnold, Erin McCarthy, Micaela Cayson, Katie Miller, Rashaad Deric, Viviana Vera, Judy Chancey, Jaime Oliva, Amelia Gutierrez, Jessica Hand, Janika Johnson, Antonis Williams; **Fifth grade:** Casey Gilbert, Manuel Flores, Mayra Vital, Jessica Marrero, Omar Paloncio, Willeana Dennard, Javis Dowdell, Luke Woodham, Leukevia Hudson, Stephanie Kirchem, Janice Worthy, Enjoli Saddler, Yoraue Garcia, Casronell Courtney, Andres Roa, Yury Alonso, Chris Alexander, Steven Jackson, Teresa Ruiz, Lacuquettie Smith, Jeanette Almazan, Hiba Ramahi, Sandy Joseph, Tranquilla Golden, Wayne Johnson, Elvira Hernandez, Miguel Velasco, Lloyd Menden, Reyna Vital, Dalal Shalabi, Christina Ruiz, Amanda Roman, Josue Solis, Javarius Tillman Gion Jackson; **Sixth grade:** Jesus Garza, Nallely Juarez, Maranda Buckhanan, Carlos Villatoro, Amanda Mashni, J.C. Cavazos, Adriana Flores, Courtney Wright, Shalonda Williams, Sylvia Lott, Corseha Haslem, Clarence Anthony, Josie Almazan, Amanda Martinez, Heather Hedrick, Aaron Waldon, James Towell, Christian Gonzalez and Lucinda Adelson.

Upcoming events

- 3/20--No School
- 3/21--Parent, Child and Literacy, 6 p.m.
- 3/21--Spanish and English Classes, 5 p.m.

Four Glades teachers receive mini-grants

Four area teachers were among nineteen throughout Palm Beach County to receive mini grants from the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County during an awards presentation held at the Feb. 16 school board meeting. School district board members, staff, principals and teachers and Education Foundation staff and board members were all on hand to recognize grant winners in support of their original, innovative projects.

Glades area teachers receiving awards include:

- Lana Balletti, Belle Glade Elementary.
- Janet R. Janke, Glade View

Elementary.

•Linda Parody and Jennifer Towell, Pioneer Park Elementary.

The mini-grant program is administered by the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County which invests money from the sale of specialty license tags in classroom projects, teacher recognition and other education programs. For each education specialty license tag that is sold in Palm Beach County, \$15 is donated to the Education Foundation to support educational programs. Cash awards range up to \$1,000 for individual grants and \$2,000 for team grants.

The Education Foundation of Palm Beach County is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to promoting effective education practices through public-private partnerships, community collaboration and private sector resources. Its vision is high achievement by all students in Palm Beach County public schools.

The Foundation accepts applications for its mini-grant program three times a year, and all Palm Beach County teachers are eligible to apply.

For more information, contact Lea Downing at (561) 357-7659.



Mrs. Davis' Pre-K-3 class at Glades Day School celebrates with an ice cream party for collecting the most Box-Tops for Education in the contest sponsored by the Elementary Student Council. The class total collected was \$53.

Lakeshore Middle School News in brief

Lakeshore celebrates cultural diversity

Lake Shore Middle School students celebrated cultural diversity during the week of Feb. 21-25. The students were allowed to reflect and reassess, but troubled and triumphant past through a variety of activities: Opening Day Ceremony (Quest of Various Lands), Soul Food Luncheon, Scavenger Hunt, Collegiate Day, Dramatic Presentation and a Cultural Arts Festival. Thanks to all the students/staff that worked very hard to make this endeavor a success. Mrs. JoAnn Finney, chairperson, Mrs. Helen R. Rutledge, principal.

Spring Break in the 'Big Apple'

Members of Lake Shore Middle School National Junior Honor Society and FCCLA will spend their Spring Break in New York. The students will visit Radio City Music Hall, ABC Good Morning America, Madison Square Garden, The Empire State Building, NASDAQ Market, Trump Towers, Warner Brothers, Sony Wonder Technology Lab, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Rockefeller Center, browse along the famous 5th Avenue and many more exciting sites. The students will leave March 12, and return to Belle Glade March 16. Mrs. JoAnn Finney is the Advisor of NJHS and Mrs. Fleeta Jackson is the advisor of FCCLA.

Lake Shore students takes second in State Academic Games

Lontay Finney an eighth grade student at Lake Shore Middle School competed in the State Academic Game competition held Saturday March 4 at Palm Beach Gardens. Students throughout the state participated in Math, Propaganda, Linguistics and Social Studies. Again, congratulations for a job well done! Mrs. Fleeta Jackson, Academic Games Coach.

Gove earns free technology from A+ America program

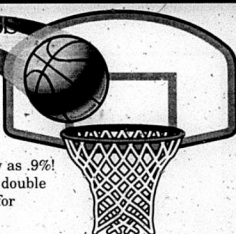
Gove Elementary School has accumulated 43,465 points from the A+ America Free Technology for Schools Program, earning a Thinking Things Collection III program.

BIC Consumer Products, maker of the top-selling ballpoint pen in the U.S. has partnered with A+ America in a commitment to help our nation's schools by donating a percentage of their sales to school technology budgets.

The A + America Free Technology for Schools program helps any K-12 school earn educational technology by collecting receipts or other proofs of purchase from sponsoring companies. Receipts and UPC codes can be turned in at Gove and redeemed for prizes. For more information about the A+ program, call 800-256-9469 ext. 235.

It's MARCH MADNESS here at Steve Moore AutoNation of Belle Glade!

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Sports this week



The Pahokee Lady Blue Devils varsity softball team includes, front row, left to right, Laquanda McKinney (6), Sharelle George (11), Latesha Hill (8), Tanzaneria Allen (5), Tequesta Cowan (4), Lexaun Curtis (7), Shaquanna Durham (20), Heather Burroughs, statistician, Head Coach Connie T. Diaz; back row, left to right, Coach Judy Moore, Samantha Brockman (18), Jackie Denton (14), and Latoria Waller (22). Absent when the photo was taken, Quatia Gayle, Yanire Horta, Telica Abrams and Kentrell Parker.

(Photo by Tracy Whirls)



The Glades Day Lady Gators varsity softball team includes, front row, left to right, Joanna Alvarez, Amanda Browder, Brittini Pelham, Jessica Paez, and Sadie McKee; back row, Chrissy Stevens, Jayme Arnold, Blair Pelham, April Doney, Carmen Paez and Mallory Grimes. They are joined by Coaches Joe Guethle, Phil Bonnell and Sherri Paez.

Glades Day Gators at 6-3, Lady Gators 4-4 as spring break suspends local action

By Tracy Whirls

As area teams take the week off the diamond for spring break, we look back at the highlights of the season so far.

The Glades Day Gators varsity baseball team stands at 6-3 midway through the season. The Gators got off to a slow start the last week of February, losing a heartbreaker to LaBelle on Feb. 23, when LaBelle hit a tiebreaker in

the sixth inning for a final score of 8-5. On Feb. 24, the Gators fell victim to Clewiston, 4-2.

On Feb. 25 the Gators rallied to defeat St. Andrews 13-8.

According to Coach Mike Underwood, the win was Coach Morris' second victory. Also noteworthy, Kyle McNama batted 500 for the week.

To improve, the coach said the team must "start hitting with run-

ners in scoring position."

Taking the coach's words to heart, Tim Burns struck out 10 and did not allow a hit after the second inning to lead the Gators past the St. Edwards Pirates, with a final score of 8-3. Burns also went 3 for 4 with an RBI double. Jessie Montalto added a three run homer for Glades Day, his first of the season Feb. 29.

In a return engagement March

3, the Gators varsity boys defeated St. Edwards 8-4. Junior catcher Cody Wilcox went 3 for 3 with a double and three RBI and his brother Cory went 2 for 3 with a triple, a home run and an RBI to lead the team to victory.

Chris Sisson went 2 for 4 with an RBI and Cody Wilcox stole home, but the Glades Day Gators fell to Lake Placid March 7, 4-3. Sisson had three doubles in two games.

The Gators came back with a vengeance March 9, handing Benjamin their first defeat, 11-4 at home. Junior pitcher Kyle McNamara allowed only two hits

and sophomore left fielder Ramsey Baughman went 2 for 3 and had 2 RBI.

Glades Day Lady Gators

The Glades Day Lady Gators record stands at 4-4 as the team takes the week off for spring break.

Sophomore pitcher/catcher Carmen Paez hit her first home run of the season Feb. 22, but the team fell to the visiting St. Edwards Pirates 7-3. They came back for a victory Feb. 25 over St. Andrews, winning 14-10.

Blair Pelham went 1 for 2 to earn the only run in the Lady Gators loss to John Carroll 11-1

Tuesday, Feb. 28.

On Thursday, March 2, despite triples from sisters Jessica and Carmen Paez, the Lady Gators fell to Okeechobee 12-4. The elder Paez went 3 for 5 with a triple and two RBI in two games.

On Tuesday, March 7, The Glades Day Lady Gators defeated Pahokee 26-3 to bring their record to 4-3. Jessica Paez pitched a two-hitter and struck out seven for her first varsity win. Jamie Arnold went 3 for 4 with five runs scored and two RBI to lead the Lady Gators past the Pahokee Lady Blue Devils.

FWC kicks off 5-year fishing license promotion

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will launch its annual five-year freshwater fishing promotion during March and April.

Anyone buying a five-year fishing license during the promotion period will receive a bonus pack valued at \$40. Resident five-year fishing licenses

cost \$61.50. Licenses are available at local tax collectors offices or by calling 1-888-486-8356 for an extra \$3.95 handling fee.

Watson to retire from coaching

Glades Central Head Football Coach Milton Watson, who led Glades Central to back to back state championships, announced last week he is retiring effective at the end of this school year.

Coach Watson said he will leave the coaching slot to pursue a career

as a school administrator.

Watson's successor has not been named, since Glades Central Principal Effie Grear is also retiring this year. The new head coach will be selected by the new principal.

Coach Watson led the Raiders to

six district championship and the team under his direction has compiled a 73-7 record, including a perfect 15-0 record last season. Glades Central has a 20-game winning streak.

The coach was named Hall of Fame Coach of the Year recently.

Palm Beach Community College

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Dr. Dennis Gallon, President
Palm Beach Community College

Four Glades teachers nominated for Dwyer awards

Editors note: Four Glades area teachers are among 24 finalists in the Economic Council's William Dwyer Awards for Excellence in Education. They are Deborah Clarke of Rosenwald Elementary School, Maria de los Angeles Silva of Pahokee Middle-Senior High School, Cartheda Mann, of Glades Central High School and Gale Zavala of Gove Elementary School.

The winners will be announced at a banquet Friday, April 7 at the Palm Beach Gardens Marriott. Following are profiles of each of the nominees.



Deborah Clarke

Deborah Clarke, 49, Literacy Specialist at Rosenwald Elementary and nominee in the Elementary Division for the Economic Council's William Dwyer Award for excellence in education didn't plan to become a teacher. Instead, she was pursuing a career as a professional musician, working as a back up singer for Roy Clark and other artists. Then, a tragic car accident and the revelation of a family secret changed her plans.

A native of Virginia Beach, Va., Mrs. Clarke attended John Brown University on a full music scholarship, and was the youngest member ever to be selected to join the university's traveling show group, "The Sound." Later, she deferred her expenses while performing as a back up singer for Roy Clark, Pat Boone, The Fifth Dimension, Kenny Rogers and others. She performed at Disneyland, The Country Music Awards, the White House, and still sees herself in terms of *Hee Haw*. A crash in which she was seriously injured ended her musical career.

"It took so long to recover—everyone else was going on. I would have had to work so hard to make a name for myself I decided to reorientize," Mrs. Clarke said.

She received her bachelor of science degree in elementary education and taught in various public and private schools in Virginia for seven years before moving to Florida when her husband was transferred in 1990.

"When I was a senior in high school, I discovered that my father was illiterate. I always took it for granted he would never read anything I wrote, or when I tried to show him my report card he would always defer to my mother," Mrs. Clarke said, explaining what made her decide on a career as a teacher. "Here I am at a school with children with the same tendencies. That's why I stay in the area. It's so rewarding when you see these children achieve."

The biggest obstacle children in the Glades in general face and at Rosenwald in particular is the lack of prior education, Mrs. Clarke said. The nine-year veteran at Rosenwald will earn her masters degree from Nova University this summer.

"The experience that other children have, that we take for granted, they don't have the opportunity. The average child comes to school with a 5,000 word vocabulary. These children come to school with a 1,000 word vocabulary. You take what they have and build upon it. That's why it always looks like they're lagging behind."

Although Rosenwald has historically not fared well in the state's FCAT scoring, those numbers are improving, Mrs. Clarke says, and other measures indicate that the "children she teaches are learning to read and write. A surfeit at the end of the first semester found that circulation at the school library has more than tripled."

"You show them the love of learning. To me the most important thing you can teach a child is how to read," Mrs. Clarke said, noting that books can open a world of adventure and experience to children who have never

traveled out of the Glades. "I'm a firm believer that any child can read, regardless of background. A good teacher is able to impart the particular skills," Mrs. Clarke said. "When the teacher has high expectations and gets joy from reading, it's contagious and I try to model that attitude to other teachers."

One of the keys to encouraging them to read is teaching them to problem solve, so that if they come to a word they don't know, they can break it up into smaller parts, sound it out, look at it in context and figure it out. She believes in teaching strategies and is not a fan of specific programs that have been promoted to teach children to read.

"Every program has its place, but programs come and go. They need to learn problem solving techniques and strategies they can use a life time. It's like teaching addition."

In early primary classes, when children are struggling with the text, she may tell them to look at the illustrations to see what they may tell the child about the story. "The illustrator put meaning in the illustrations and they can guide the child into the meaning. You show them how to 'chunk' words, find the little word in a big word, sound it out."

Attitude, Mrs. Clarke said, is everything.

"A teacher has to be a performer. If you're animated and excited about what you're doing, you make it a real life experience for them," Mrs. Clarke said.

The literacy specialist position was her first attempt at teaching at-risk students, after having spent much of her career teaching gifted children at private schools. "I didn't come into this position thinking they couldn't do it. I don't lower my expectations and they rise to the occasion."

"Initially, they know they can't read so they wouldn't try. I tell them you can do this, I'll show you how. Now they're no longer afraid to read a book," she said.



Maria de los Angeles Silva

Maria de los Angeles Silva, 31, ESOL teacher and chair of the foreign language department at Pahokee Middle-Senior High School and nominee in the Middle School Division for the Economic Council's William Dwyer award for excellence in education has always been a teacher. A native of Belle Glade, born two years after her family immigrated from Cuba, her earliest memories involve acting as translator/interpreter for family members and friends.

A mailman in Cuba, who grew up on the family's farm, the only work Mrs. Silva's father, Angel Rodriguez, could find when he came to Belle Glade in 1968 was as a cowboy at Big B Ranch, which later became King Ranch.

"He grew up on the family ranch—they weren't rich, but they were middle class—he'd always worked with animals, knew how to ride, how to lasso, then they moved to Havana and he became a mailman and my mother was a housewife," Mrs. Silva said. When they came to the United States, with no formal education that would easily translate to a profession here, Mr. Rodriguez became a cowboy and Mrs. Rodriguez went from being a housewife to working in the fields and the packing house at Duda.

"This day they don't speak English fluently and they've been here 34 years," Mrs. Silva says of her parents, explaining that their emphasis was always on providing for their family, rather than on their own education. "I can remember as a little girl, people coming to our house and asking if they could borrow Maria to come translate for them—and there I would go. When her parents had to take the test to earn their

United States citizenship, she sat down and taught them the 100 questions and answers on the test."

At the same time that she was improving her English skills, her mother made sure she valued and remembered her Hispanic heritage.

"My grandmother still lived in Cuba when I was little. I never had any formal education in Spanish until high school, but when my grandmother's letters would come, my mother would read them to me. I can remember sitting with a dictionary and writing back and mother would read them to me in Spanish," Mrs. Silva said.

"I always loved the language my parents taught me at home," Mrs. Silva continues. "In college, as I studied Spanish language and literature, I wanted to impart that love to young people."

She earned her bachelor's degree in language and linguistics at Florida Atlantic University and won the M.E.D. grant, sponsored by Dr. Carlos Diaz to earn her masters degree in education with cultural foundations.

As the child of immigrant parents, Mrs. Silva has much in common with her students, many of whom are migrants from Mexico, Nicaragua, or Honduras. She also has two Haitian students and one from Bangladesh.

"They're very secure with me. They get attached and because I'm bilingual they have that little crush—she can tell me this in Spanish—and I have to say, 'you need to do this in English.'"

"I've always believed all children can learn, but they all learn in different ways. The challenge for a teacher is finding that way," Mrs. Silva said. For the Hispanic students preparing for the FCAT, that might mean starting the writing process in Spanish, then working on the English. Sometimes it may not mean reading or writing at all, but working with art, playing cards or acting—the goal being to teach students from diverse backgrounds to communicate and appreciate one another's cultures and heritage.

Besides teaching English as a second language, she has also taught Spanish and as department chair oversees the school's dual language program, designed as a magnet program to continue the bilingual education students are receiving at Gove Elementary.

"We have the first group who were taught English and Spanish together this year. In two years, we'll have the first group who has been taught both since kindergarten," Mrs. Silva said.

As department chair, Mrs. Silva has done grant writing to bring an exchange teacher, Juan Luis Lopez, from Mexico, and was involved in the district's recruitment of a Spanish teacher from Spain. She and the other teachers in the department, four of whom are now Hispanic, are considering the development of an exchange program for students.

Besides her work at school, Mrs. Silva sponsors the Foreign Language Club, which includes activities such as folkloric dance and foreign language fairs, as well as working with Father John's programs for migrant families at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Pahokee.



Cartheda Mann

Cartheda Mann, who teaches two gifted classes and a class for students with varying exceptionalities at Glades Central High School, is a nominee in the Special Education Division for the Economic Council's William Dwyer award for excellence in education came to teaching after a career in journalism and the arts.

"I never thought I wanted to

teach," Mrs. Mann said, instead focusing her careers around writing. A writer all her life, she began writing poetry to her mother at age 8—in free verse.

"I wasn't really good at conversing as a child," Mrs. Mann said, and although she describes herself as an inveterate journal keeper, she says she's the world's worst at remembering to take family photos because she chronicles moments in her journal, which she hopes some day to turn into the basis of a novel, "to everything there is a season."

A native of Belle Glade, the daughter of W.C. and Lavioise Taylor, owners of Taylor, Smith and West Funeral Home, she attended Fisk University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in general English, and received her master's degree in African American Studies with concentration in African American Literature from Boston University.

"I started out at the Palm Beach Post, but I wanted to write about what I wanted to write about and for me my assignments were rather proscribed," Mrs. Mann said.

Not knowing "what she wanted to be when she grew up," she said, she studied literature in graduate school because she always enjoyed other people's writing. "I enjoy well punctuated sentences, the use of words," she said.

When she came back to Belle Glade, a friend who taught criminal placement English at Glades Central invited her to share her knowledge of African American writers like Ralph Ellison and Zora Neale Hurston with her students.

Her love of Hurston, who was a frequent visitor to Belle Glade during her career—her most famous novel, "their eyes were watching God" is set in Belle Glade—led to the establishment of the Zora Neale Houston museum and her writing centered on local writing, to seek funding for the museum, a job she continued when she became employed by the Arts Council.

The teaching slot at Glades Central came about almost by accident. "I attended a meeting for the gifted program—I had two children enrolled in it. They had no English teacher for the gifted program and a light went off in my head. I had raised two gifted children, so I thought, 'why not give it a shot.' She applied for the gifted endorsement courses being offered by the school board, and so her teaching career began."

"Now I'm satisfied. I see results in a different way. Children don't know the way their success or failure in life may depend on school, whether its intensive lessons in vocabulary, or analytical discussion of literature, because something like literature may be the only common ground that they can discuss with someone," Mrs. Mann said.

"It's a challenge every single day. One reason I thought I'd never become a teacher is that I didn't have the patience," she said, but she's been able to use her parenting skills to help her become a better teacher.

Staying in her VE class come in at different levels—some not knowing simple words. She works with them teaching them basic vocabulary and trying to instill a love of reading for relaxation and recreation.

All other lessons weave in and out of vocabulary. "I try to show them that words are the sum of their component parts—that they can 'decode' words they don't understand."

Being African-American in a school where the majority of her students are African American establishes some common ground, Mrs. Mann said, and her background in African-American literature helps her to find material that her students are interested in. "Children value the educational experience more if they see themselves in it—when they read literature they're looking for bits and pieces of themselves, and even my Hispanic students seem to identify more with the African-American literature than with the more mainstream classical literature," Mrs. Mann said.

The empathy that she has gained from writing is also helpful. "If I can do a character sketch, if I understand what motivated Romeo to fall in love at first sight, then that helps prepare me to deal with human beings and what motivates them."

"I try to treat them as individuals. Many of my students are learning disabled or emotionally handicapped. They feel 'less than' even if they can't articulate it. They shy away from different things because they're afraid of being laughed at," she said. So beyond the curriculum, she tries to talk to them about values. "In a world where children don't respect enough, you help them understand respect. I don't let them get away with infractions, but I only wrote my second discipline referral in four years Friday. I try to teach them conflict resolution. Students. Know when you care about them."



Gale Zavala

Gale Zavala, who teaches students with varying exceptionalities at Gove Elementary School and is a nominee in the Special Education Division for the Economic Council's William Dwyer award for excellence in education began her 15 year career at Gove as a speech pathologist.

A native of California, she earned her degree in speech pathology/audiology from San Jose State University.

"Way back in high school, I volunteered to work for Catholic Charities," she said, when asked how she became interested in special education. "Everyone has someone in their family with some kind of exceptionalism. My husband's cousin had a Downs Syndrome child—that got me interested in it. Later you find you either really like it, or you gear yourself to some other area of education."

When her husband, who works in the airline industry, was transferred to Fort Lauderdale, she found a home at Gove.

"Being of Mexican American ancestry, I feel more at home in this community, than Wellington, where I live," Mrs. Zavala said. "I feel like I have an impact on children, even if they're not assigned to my class."

Mrs. Zavala has spearheaded a number of projects at Gove, including the "Planet Patrol" recycling project and the in-school mail program which provides opportunities for the disabled students in her class to work with the general student population, taking teaching outside the traditional classroom.

"By conducting instruction within the natural context of functional activities such as gardening, recycling or other pre-vocational projects I have seen my students make remarkable gains," Mrs. Zavala said. "This not only prepares them for future community roles, it also enlightens the non-disabled population of the

achievements of students who are mentally and physically challenged. One of the greatest rewards in teaching has been to witness non-disabled students learn to accept the difference and acknowledge what they have in common with their disabled peers."

"My students and the non-disabled students at our school share many common interests and activities. They can be seen working together side-by-side in their gardens, sorting letters for the in-school mail program, playing musical instruments together for a holiday concert, collaborating on service projects, assisting each other with school wide recycling or just having a good time together on a field trip," Mrs. Zavala said.

Mrs. Zavala said her mission as an educator is to continue to help all children be the best they can be and to be supportive of one another. Toward that end, she stresses teaching children cooperation and conflict resolution skills, which she considers "as important as spelling and science in developing a child as a whole individual."

Besides encouraging cooperation among students, the different extracurricular projects also encourage developing new skills. Through the in-school mail program, students are improving their writing skills and staff members such as cafeteria workers, secretaries and custodians have been included as letter writers and are contributing to the effort to improve literacy at the school.

In addition to her work with students, Mrs. Zavala stays in constant contact with the parents of her students, making phone calls, sending home notes, preparing a weekly newsletter. Those efforts have helped encourage parents to volunteer at the school, whether working in the classroom with students, chaperoning on field trips or networking with other parents of special needs children.

"Encouraging parents to be an active part of the school is a mutually rewarding situation," Mrs. Zavala said. "Being present in the classroom provides an opportunity for the parent to observe motivating activities to improve academic skills and learn alternative behavior modification techniques. The teacher gains a valuable set of hands in the classroom and the chance to share ideas and information with parents."

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